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SKYLIGHT FLASHING

This is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,035,593, filed July 30, 1998 [and incorporated herein by reference].

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to tubular skylights, and more particularly to roof-mounted flashings.

BACKGROUND

Tubular skylights have been provided for illuminating rooms inside buildings with natural light. Not only do tubular skylights thus save electricity and, concomitantly, are environmentally benign, but they illuminate rooms in a pleasing way using natural sunlight instead of 60 cycle electric light. An example of a commercially successful tubular skylight is disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 5,099,622, assigned to the same assignee as the present invention and incorporated herein by reference.

A tubular skylight includes a roof-mounted, dome-like transparent cover. The cover is mounted on the roof of a building by means of a flashing. An internally reflective tube depends downwardly from the flashing to the ceiling of the room sought to be illuminated, and the bottom of the tube is covered with a disk-shaped light diffuser that is positioned at the ceiling.

A roof-mounted flashing typically includes a curb, the top of which is covered by the dome and the bottom of which engages a downwardly-depending skylight tube. A flat skirt is typically formed around the bottom of the curb, with the skirt extending radially away from the curb. The skirt is fastened to the roof such that the flashing provides an upper support for the skylight.

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5 and only one" unless explicitly so stated, but rather "one or more". [All structural and functional equivalents to the elements of the above-described preferred embodiment that are known or later come to be known to those of ordinary skill in the art are expressly incorporated herein by reference and are intended to be encompassed by the present claims.] Moreover, it is not necessary for a device or method to address each and every problem sought to be solved by the present invention, for it to be encompassed by the present claims. Furthermore, no element, component, or method step in the present disclosure is intended to be dedicated to the public regardless of whether the element, component, or method step is explicitly recited in the claims. No claim element herein is to be construed under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth
10 paragraph, unless the element is expressly recited using the phrase "means for".

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MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

3. (amended) [The skylight of Claim 2,] A tubular skylight comprising:
a seamless metal flashing;
a transparent dome engageable with the flashing;
at least one skylight tube depending downwardly from the flashing, wherein the flashing
comprises:
a hollow frusto-conical shaped curb defining an open top, the open top being covered by the
dome, the curb defining a bottom opposite the open top; and
a skirt extending radially away from the bottom of the curb, wherein the skirt defines a radial
dimension, and the skirt is formed with plural ribs, each rib being oriented radially on the skirt.
4. (amended) The skylight of Claim [2]3, wherein the skirt defines an outer periphery, and
the skirt includes a [the] rib [is] formed along at least part of the periphery.
7. (amended) A roof flashing, comprising:
a hollow frusto-conical shaped curb defining a bottom end; and
a metal skirt extending radially away from the bottom end, the skirt being formed with at
least one surface strengthening anomaly [The roof flashing of Claim 6], wherein the surface
strengthening anomaly is a rib, the skirt defines a radial dimension, and the skirt is formed with
plural ribs, each rib being oriented radially on the skirt.

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8. (amended) The roof flashing of Claim [6]Z, wherein [the surface strengthening anomaly is a rib,] the skirt defines an outer periphery, and [the]further includes at least one rib [is] formed along at least part of the periphery.

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